

REMARKS

Applicants' attorney is appreciative of the interview granted by the Examiner on October 2, 2003. At that interview, the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, was discussed, and the Examiner raised the issue that it was not clear what the concentration of graphite is in the suspension discussed in the example on page 15 of the application.

Applicants agree that the example on page 15 is not written clearly, and in order to clarify the example, the paragraph at page 15, lines 12 through 28, has been amended to change "graphite" to "mother suspension." Thus, the paragraph now states that a casting is made using a mother suspension of graphite at 21% diluted in water, with an adjustment of the proportion of mother suspension between about 2 and 3%. This is fully in accordance with the previous disclosure of the specification in the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8, in which it is stated that "[t]ypically, a mother suspension may be used which is a concentrate of graphite particles in suspension in a gel, with a proportion of graphite typically between 20 and 30% by weight. The carrier fluid is then generally water. The proportion of mother suspension added to the carrier fluid is typically between 1 and 8%."

The amendment to the example is in accordance with this statement, the example now reciting that a 21% mother suspension is diluted in water at a proportion of 1-2%. In view of the agreement between the amendment to the example and the previous disclosure, Applicants submit that the amendment to the specification does not constitute new matter.

In accordance with the specification as amended, the example now discloses that the concentration of graphite in the water sprayed onto the rolls is between 0.42 and 0.63%.

As was pointed out at the interview, the specification has been alleged to be deficient in subject matter which Applicants believe to be well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Thus, it is well known in the art to detect problems with casting, and to increase the lubricant flow rate when sticking is detected. There are a variety of ways in which sticking can be detected, among which are the methods disclosed in U.S. Patents Nos. 4,501,315, 4,892,133 and 5,353,861, all of record in the present application. The process by which one determines whether to change the concentration of release agent is summarized in the paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15 of the application, and the measurements made in the process may include optical, laser, infra-red, vibration and mechanical tension measurements. As noted, these measurements are all well known in the art. Applicants' improvement is to change the concentration of release agent in the fluid applied to the rolls, rather than changing the amount of fluid applied to the rolls. As set forth on page 8 of the application, the mother suspension of graphite is added to a carrier fluid in an amount between 1 and 8%, and the concentration of graphite sprayed onto the rolls may vary between 0.2 and 4% by weight, as set forth in the specification on page 7, lines 13 through 18.

Thus, applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would easily understand how to make and use the invention, and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, is requested.

To further emphasize the improvement of the invention, Applicants have now added a new Claim 63 to the application, Claim 63 being written in Jepson form, in which the improvement comprises increasing the concentration of release agent in the carrier fluid when sticking is detected.

Claims 42 through 62 have again been rejected under 35 USC 103 over Roder et al, and over the admitted prior art in view of Roder et al.

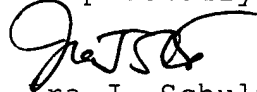
Despite the use of the word "concentration" at column 3, line 2, Applicants submit that Roder et al does not actually teach varying the concentration of release agent in carrier, as there is no disclosure of exactly how one would go about doing this. Indeed, the Roder et al process is generally directed to early detection and prevention of sticking, and the means for adjusting process parameters when sticking is detected is a secondary part of the invention. With reference to Figure 1 of Roder et al, nozzles 52 are intended to apply a graphite dressing to the casting rolls, continuously or intermittently. However, no means are associated with nozzles 52 for supplying the graphite dressing, and no means are shown for increasing or decreasing the concentration of release agent in the carrier fluid of the dressing.

Moreover, Applicants believe that the term "parting agent" as used in the paragraph bridging columns 2 and 3 refers to the release product, and it is the concentration of the release product which is being increased, not the concentration of the *release agent* in the *carrier fluid*.

Because Roder et al does not specifically disclose or suggest any method for increasing the concentration of release agent in carrier fluid, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited art, and withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks,
Applicants submit that the present application is now in
condition for allowance. An early allowance of the
application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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